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Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, BU, UR
SUBJECT: BULGARIAN-SOVIET LONG TERM AGREEMENTS SIGNED; PROTOCOL FOR 1976 CALLS FOR 4.4 BILLION RUBLES WORTH OF TRADE

REF: SOFIA 2829

1. BULGARIAN PAPERS ANNOUNCED IN LATE DECEMBER SIGNING IN MOSCOW OF LONG TERM SOVIET-BULGARIAN TRADE AND PAYMENTS AGREEMENTS WORTH 24.4 BILLION RUBLES OVER NEXT FIVE YEARS, MORE THAN 75 PERCENT INCREASE FROM 1971-5 PERIOD TOTAL OF 13.9 BILLION RUBLES. ACCORDING TO BULGARIAN MATHEMATICIANS, BULGARIA'S PER CAPITA TRADE WITH THE USSR WILL BE OVER TWICE THAT OF ANY OTHER CEMA COUNTRY, AND REPORTEDLY BULGARIA WILL REMAIN FOURTH LARGEST TRADING PARTNER OF USSR IN 1976.

2. AGREEMENT, REPORTED LARGELY IN GENERALITIES, NOTES CONSIDERABLE INCREASE EXPECTED IN MUTUAL DELIVERIES OF MACHINES AND QUIPMENT, PARTICULARLY FROM BULGARIA TO USSR. PERCENTAGE OF BULGARIAN EXPORTS IN THIS
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GROUP IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE FROM 40 TO 49 PERCENT

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IN 1976-80 PERIOD. SOVIET UNION ON OTHER HAND IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE ITS FUEL, ENERGY, AND RAW MATERIAL AND RESOURCE EXPORTS FROM 46 TO 58 PERCENT OF TOTAL EXPORTS OVER NEXT FIVE YEARS. REPORTS ALSO NOTE BULGARIA WILL BE SUPPLYING USSR WITH 670 MILLION RUBLES WORTH OF MACHINES, EQUIPMENT, AND MATERIALS TO BE USED IN CONSTRUCTION AND EXPANSION OF FACILITIES ON SOVIET TERRITORY FOR PRODUCTION OF FUEL, ENERGY, AND RAW MATERIALS.

3. COMMENT: INCREASES IN VALUE SOVIET SUPPLIED FUEL, ENERGY, AND RAW MATERIALS PROBABLY REFLECT INCREASED ENERGY PRICES AS SLIDING CEMA CALCULATIONS TAKE RAPID PETROLEUM PRICE INCREASE IN EARLY 1970'S INTO ACCOUNT. THEY ARE ALSO ONE MORE ASPECT OF BULGARIA'S OVERWHELMING ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE ON USSR. INFORMATION PUBLISHED GIVES NO DETAILS ON SPECIFIC PROJECTS,E.G. ORENBURG PIPELINE, FOR WHICH BULGARIA WOULD BE EXPORTING GOODS TO INCREASE SOVIET PRODUCTION OF FUEL, ENERGY, AND RAW MATERIALS. END COMMENT.

4. ANNOUNCEMENT OF SIGNING OF LONG-TERM AGREEMENT ALSO COINCIDED WITH SIGNING OF SOVIET-BULGARIAN PROTOCOL FOR 1976 CALLING FOR TOTAL TRADE TURNOVER OF 4.4 BILLION RUBLES. UNDER ABOVE AGREEMENTS, ONE OF FIRST CONTRACTS TO BE SIGNED WAS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED (REFTEL) SOVIET SALE OF 440 MILLION RUBLES WORTH OF CRUDE OIL, MAZUT, BENZENE AND OTHER PETRO-CHEMICAL PRODUCTS. PAPERS ALSO REPORT THAT IN 1976

BULGARIA WILL EXPORT FORK LIFTS AND HOISTS; TRANS-PORTATION AND AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT; ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT; BATTERIES; SHIPS; CHEMICAL AND INDUSTRIAL CONSUMER PRODUCTS; MACHINES AND EQUIPMENT FOR THE LIGHT, FOOD, AND TOBACCO INDUSTRIES; AND FRESH AND PROCESSED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.
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